

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Winkler Introduces Legislation to Strip Pensions from Government Officials Convicted of Criminal Conduct



HARTFORD--State Representative Lenny Winkler, R-Groton, today submitted testimony Legislature's Government, Administration and Elections Committee in support of ethics reform legislation she has introduced. House Bill 5107, An Act Revoking The Pension Of Certain State Or Municipal Public Officials Or

Employees Who Are Convicted Of Felonies, would revoke pension benefits from state or municipal officials who are convicted of criminal conduct in the workplace.

In her testimony, Rep. Winkler stated it does not sit well with Connecticut's taxpayers that elected officials have used their office to engage in criminal behavior for personal benefit. Unfortunately, in recent years, such incidents have involved several high profile state and municipal leaders, she added.

"I believe this legislation will serve as an effective deterrent to corruption," said Rep. Winkler. "Officials will be well aware that engaging in criminal behavior while serving in their position will cost them future income. People who expect that their pension will play a major role in the finances of their elderly years will act accordingly."

Rep. Winkler noted that the committee may also want to consider reviewing relevant constitutionality issues in order to make measures in the proposed bill retroactive. She said she is hopeful that as the Legislature considers several other ethics reform bills proposed this year, HB 5107 is included in the package that is ultimately passed into law.

Additional ethics reform proposals currently before the General Assembly include measures to ban campaign contributions from lobbyists and their political action committees (PACs); banning campaign contributions from state contractors; lowering campaign contribution limits; closing loopholes in "revolving door" and gift statutes and requiring all municipalities to adopt an ethics code within two years.